ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The proposal relates to a device for protecting an electrical and/or electronic component, arranged on a carrier substrate, from electrostatic discharges, an overvoltage occurring in the case of discharge at a carrier-substrate contact element connected to the component being diverted to a ground connection, bypassing the component. It is proposed that the protective device include a first electroconductive structure conductively connected to the jeopardized contact element, and a second electroconductive structure arranged adjacent to the first structure on the carrier substrate and conductively connected to the ground connection. Mutually facing sections of the electroconductive structures are set apart spatially from one another by a defined gap in such a way that an overvoltage transmitted to the contact element is transferred by a spark discharge in the gap from the section of the first electroconductive structure to the section of the second electroconductive structure, and is diverted to the ground connection.